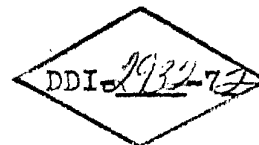


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31 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : OCI and the Experimental Research Group

1. We have been giving considerable thought to the possibilities of research on new methodologies in political analysis. We have circularized our analysts and received some suggestions from them. With your proposal in mind, we sent [redacted]

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2. Our results do not point strongly toward the advisability of a separate and special effort to develop new research methodologies for political analysis. The analysts' suggestions are basically a set of research projects which have occurred to them, not new methodologies which require special development. [redacted] we found the behavioralists in retreat, and rightly so. Attending as many of their sessions as we could, we discovered that the whole profession is beginning to agree that statistical methods are applicable only to very narrowly defined topics and require a volume of numerical data rarely available on US topics and almost never on foreign ones. [redacted]

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a look at the recent work on bureaucratic elites and find it interesting but far from a widely applicable and valuable approach, viz., the critique of Graham Allison in the latest issue of Foreign Policy, or the senselessness of trying to analyze US foreign policy since 1969 in terms of the interaction of bureaucratic interests.

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3. Our present conclusion is that new analytic techniques such as modeling, simulation, quantitative methods, and the like, are not so readily applicable to OCI's tasks as they are to other DDI components. Our mission is such that there can be no substitute for the knowledgeable and experienced desk analyst, who hopefully will remain alert to the possibilities of new techniques. OCI's problems are so different in kind from those of OER and OSR that, should we assign an officer to the examination of new methodologies, we doubt that he would benefit by being removed from the Office for the sake of close association with those on similar assignments from other components.

4. This is not to say we oppose formation of an experimental group, rather that it should focus primarily on the problems of OSR and OER. There is, moreover, a fair amount of interest in the subject among OCI analysts. Should an inter-disciplinary project be organized in this field which called for an input of OCI skills, we could make an officer available for assignment.



Director of Current Intelligence

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TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
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<p><b>Remarks:</b> Dick--</p> <p>Although I sympathize with some of the views in your memo, I am disappointed in its generally negative thrust. It is not that I believe that modeling, simulation, and quantitative methods are as applicable to OCI's tasks as to those of OER or OSR. Nor is it that I believe that we could develop any new technique to "substitute for the knowledgeable and experienced desk analyst ..." Rather, it is that I feel it worth the investment to see whether new techniques or approaches of any kind can be developed to supplement these analyst attributes.</p> <p>With this in mind, I ask you to reconsider the problem and attempt to provide me with some suggestions for research.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ed Proctor</p>			
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Deputy Director for Intelligence			1 Nov.
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